



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney*

*Eastern District of Pennsylvania*

---

*615 Chestnut Street*

*Suite 1250*

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476*

*(215) 861-8200*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2005

**SIXTEEN ALLEGED MEMBERS OF ALLENTOWN  
HEROIN ORGANIZATION INDICTED**

ALLENTOWN – United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan today announced the filing of a one-count indictment<sup>1</sup> charging Isaisa Sanchez, Edgardo Colon, Dedmas Sanchez, a/k/a “Guimo,” Jose Miguel Rivera, Jr., a/k/a “Pechu,” Jose Miguel Rivera, Sr., Luis Antonio Colon, a/k/a “Menor,” Omar Chinchilla, a/k/a “Jr.,” James Julia-Cosme, a/k/a “Barbero,” Julio Martinez, Ezequiel Rivera, a/k/a “Junior,” Carlos Alexander Ortiz-Cortez, a/k/a “Surdo,” a/k/a “Ale,” William Martinez, a/k/a “Pito,” Julian Ortiz, a/k/a “Blanco,” Miguel Hernandez, a/k/a “Pito,” Edward Skotarczak, a/k/a “Painter,” and Roberto Gonzalez, a/k/a “Boriqua,” with conspiracy to distribute more than one kilogram of heroin, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. The indictment charges that on or about January 2002 through the date of this indictment, the defendants conspired to sell heroin on the streets of Allentown, Pennsylvania.

The Sanchez Organization used three cellular telephones that heroin customers called to arrange drug sales. The phones were pre-paid with no verifiable subscriber information. The phones were distributed to street dealers along with a supply of heroin by “runners” while “managers” coordinated the daily narcotics activity with overall direction provided by the organizational leadership. When a street dealer was arrested and the phone confiscated, the number was simply transferred to a new cell phone by the next day. These cell phones received thousands of calls per month.

“This organization controlled approximately three-quarters of the heroin trade in Allentown,” said Meehan. “It was well-organized, mobile, and committed to turning a profit at the expense of the people who live and work in this community.”

The Organization employed a profit-sharing method of heroin sales that tied compensation to the amount of heroin distributed. The group’s signature practice was the packaging of 14 ten-dollar bags of heroin in a “bundle.” The 14-bag bundles exceeded the ten-bag bundles typically employed in the heroin trade. The Organization was responsible for distributing approximately 50-60 bundles of heroin per day in Allentown which is equivalent to 25-30 grams of heroin or nearly one kilogram per month. A kilogram of heroin currently sells for approximately \$60,000 to \$70,000. That kilogram can be repackaged into approximately 20,000 ten-dollar bags of heroin. Those bags then sell for \$200,000 on the street for an approximate profit of \$140,000 per kilogram of heroin.

---

<sup>1</sup> An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

March 9, 2005

Page 2

The Sanchez Organization conducted business in the downtown area of Allentown, Pennsylvania, specifically in the vicinity of 8<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> Streets on Green Street, 8<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> Streets on Washington Street, 10<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> Streets on Chew Street, and Front and Allen Streets. The workers directed callers when and where to meet them to complete the transactions. The runners and the managers kept their supplies of heroin at “stash houses” nearby the sales locations. Identified stash houses included what the conspirators called “the Castle” at 1326 Chew Street and “the Cave” at 602 N. Front Street, among other known stash locations.

“This investigation demonstrates the effectiveness of joint agency cooperation in attacking and dismantling major drug organizations,” said DEA Special Agent-in-Charge James M. Kasson. “The local Allentown community will benefit from the impact of this cooperative law enforcement effort.”

If convicted, the defendants face life imprisonment with a mandatory minimum of ten years imprisonment, up to lifetime supervised release with a mandatory minimum of five years supervised release, up to \$4 million fine, and a \$100 special assessment. However, any defendants determined to have a prior felony drug conviction face a mandatory minimum of 20 years imprisonment, a mandatory minimum of ten years supervised release and a \$8 million fine. The case was investigated by the agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Lehigh County District Attorney’s Office and the Allentown Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), and the Pennsylvania State Police. The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney John M. Gallagher.

#### INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Isaisa Sanchez	formerly of Allentown PA	26
Edgardo Colon	formerly of Allentown PA	23
Dedmas Sanchez	East Sixth Street Bethlehem PA	28
Jose Miguel Rivera, Jr.	Lynnfield Drive Bethlehem PA	26
Jose Miguel Rivera, Sr.	Spring Garden Street Allentown PA	47

March 9, 2005

Page 3

Luis Antonio Colon	N. Sixth Street Allentown PA	21
Omar Chinchilla	S. Fifth Street Allentown PA	23
James Julia-Cosme	Pine Street Allentown PA	25
Julio Martinez	N. Jordan Street Allentown PA	23
Ezequiel Rivera	N. Front Street Allentown PA	31
Carlos Alexander Ortiz- Cortez	N. 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Allentown PA	26
William Martinez	N. Jordan Street Allentown PA	27
Julian Ortiz	N. Fifth Street Allentown PA	19
Miguel Hernandez	Gordon Street Allentown PA	33
Edward Skotarczak	N. Ninth Street Allentown, PA	37
Roberto Quiles Gonzalez	unknown	27

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA  
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Contact: Richard Manieri  
Media Contact  
215-861-8525**

*COPIES OF NEWS MEMOS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT  
[HTTP://WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/PAE](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/pae)*